

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A perpendicular magnetic recording medium in which a perpendicular magnetic enhancement layer having a face centered cubic structure and a thickness of 15 nm or greater is deposited between a substrate and a perpendicular magnetic recording layer, and a perpendicular orientation promoting underlayer is disposed between the substrate and the perpendicular magnetic enhancement layer for promoting the perpendicular orientation of the perpendicular magnetic recording layer.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (previously presented): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the perpendicular magnetic enhancement layer is formed of at least one selected from the group consisting of Pt, Au, Pd and an alloy of these materials.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A perpendicular magnetic recording medium in which a perpendicular magnetic enhancement layer having a face centered cubic

structure and a thickness of 15 nm or greater is deposited between a substrate and a perpendicular magnetic recording layer, and a perpendicular orientation promoting underlayer is disposed between the substrate and the perpendicular magnetic enhancement layer for promoting the perpendicular orientation of the perpendicular magnetic recording layer. ~~The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 1,~~ wherein the perpendicular orientation promoting underlayer is formed of Ti or a Ti alloy and has a thickness less than 10 nm.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer is of a CoCr alloy.

Claim 6 (original): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 5, wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording layer further comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of B, Pt, Ta, V, Nb, Zr, Y, and Mo.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 1, further comprising a protective layer and a lubricant layer sequentially on the perpendicular magnetic recording layer.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein perpendicular magnetic enhancement layer is formed of Pt and has a thickness no less than 15 nm.

Claims 9-14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): A perpendicular magnetic recording medium in which a perpendicular magnetic enhancement layer having a face centered cubic structure and a thickness of 15 nm or greater is deposited between a substrate and a perpendicular magnetic recording layer, and a perpendicular orientation promoting underlayer is disposed between the substrate and the perpendicular magnetic enhancement layer for promoting the perpendicular orientation of the perpendicular magnetic recording layer. ~~The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 1,~~ wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording medium has a double-layer structure including a soft magnetic layer between the substrate and the perpendicular orientation promoting underlayer.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A perpendicular magnetic recording medium in which a perpendicular magnetic enhancement layer having a face centered cubic structure and a thickness of 15 nm or greater is deposited between a substrate and a perpendicular magnetic recording layer, and a perpendicular orientation promoting underlayer is disposed between the substrate and the perpendicular magnetic enhancement layer for promoting the perpendicular orientation of the perpendicular magnetic recording layer. ~~The perpendicular magnetic recording medium of claim 1,~~ wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording medium has a pseudo double-layer

structure including a soft magnetic layer between the perpendicular orientation promoting underlayer and the perpendicular magnetic recording layer.